



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

Rev. Anne McAnelly, Pastor
Dr. Don Adkins, Music Director

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10:30 A.M.

✠ First Sunday of Advent- Rome: A Place of Longing ✠

December 1, 2024

WE SET OFF

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

*GATHERING SONG

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

GtG #82

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

A WORD OF WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY (*Sung by all*)

Carolyn Crocker and Eileen Mihm

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

The journey begins, and this candle will help light our way.

We are on our way to more hope.

Decrees and decisions affect our world and our lives as they did in Jesus' day.

We are a people who long for Good News.

There are milestones that guide us to a better day.

God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

We're on our way
We're on our way
Dream of the day
When hope holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way
This is the day.

OPENING PRAYER AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE PEACE

*HYMN

Do Not Be Afraid

GtG#76

Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Chosen and beloved, you are my own.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you: by your name I called you for my own.
Look up, a new thing I am doing; it springs forth; look and see it grow.
Through wilderness I'll make a level highway; through deserts, make streams and rivers flow.
Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Chosen and beloved, you are my own.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you: by your name I called you for my own.
I am God, who blots out your transgressions; for my own sake I do not chide or blame.
Only this much I ask, that you love me and seek me and honor my name.
Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Chosen and beloved, you are my own.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you: by your name I called you for my own.
The Lord, the Holy One of Israel has promised to lead us on our way,
And we who love and worship God our Maker will listen to hear the Spirit say:
Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Chosen and beloved, you are my own.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you: by your name I called you for my own.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Song of prayer: Prepare the Way of the Lord (GtG 95 2x)

Travel the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord.

And all people will see the salvation of our God.

Prayers lifted to God

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we**

forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE PLACE AND ITS MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,

the hoping, the longing,

the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,

and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Romans 8:18-25

NT page # 158

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

VIDEO JOURNEY

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-3

NT page# 58

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

SERMON

Advent Begins in Rome

The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WHAT WE SEE CHANGES US

OFFERING: Gifts along the way

Offering Music

In Remembrance of Me

Choir

Doxology (unison) Tune, Away in a Manger

Praise God for these gifts that we offer today
and bless them for good in the world, this we pray.
Praise Jesus, the Christ-Child, our Hope and our Stay,
the Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.

COMMUNION (Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You, sung interspersed)

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsive)

The God of Hope be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise....(...prayer continues)

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day! (...prayer continues)

All Your works with joy surround You, Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Praising You eternally!

Words of Institution

Responses: Grateful to be on the journey with you!...

Grateful to be on the journey with you!...

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Always giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving [Abba], Christ our [Sibling], Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine. (...prayer continues)

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, [move] we onward, [Trav'lers] in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward, In the triumph song of life.

Sharing Communion

Closing Prayer

MOVING ON

*HYMN

Christ is Coming!

GtG 360

Christ is coming! Let creation from its groans and labor cease; let the glorious proclamation
hope restore and faith increase:

Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, O blessed Prince of peace.

Earth can now but tell the story of your bitter cross and pain; we shall yet behold your glory,
Lord, when you return to reign:

Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Let each heart repeat the strain.

With that blessed hope before us, flutes are tuned and harps are strung; let the mighty advent
chorus onward roll from tongue to tongue:

Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Let each heart repeat the song.

Long your exiles have been pining for your promised rest and home, but in heavenly glory
shining, soon the risen Christ shall come.

Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Joyful, shout the victory psalm.

BENEDICTION

Choral response after Benediction (*unison*)

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,
cast our out fear, and draw us near; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

We're on our way
We're on our way
Dream of the day
When hope holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way
This is the day.

The service of worship ends, the service of neighbor and world begins!

Our Advent series was written by Dr. Marcia McFee from Worship Design Studios. It is based on On the Way to Bethlehem, by Rev. Rob Fuquay.

TODAY'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNION: Pam Arnsberger
LITURGIST: Gene Burk
GREETER: Michele Pomroy
COFFEE HOST: Michele Pomroy
COUNTER: Shari Gallegos

Upcoming Events

Monday, December 2	Book Study @ 1:15 pm Bell Choir @ 2:30 pm
Tuesday, December 3	Nurture Meeting @ 10 am Enrichment Meeting @ 2 pm
Thursday, December 5	Choir Rehearsal @ 2:00 pm

Be sure to check out our weekly e-newsletter for upcoming events during this busy holiday season! Email the office if you are not currently subscribed.

Advent Book Study- On the Way to Bethlehem by Rob Fuquay. Please purchase the book online, and join us for our book study starting on Dec 2, at 1:15 on Zoom. Please read up to Rome, A Place of Longing.

Christmas Luncheon, Dec. 8 following worship. Please bring salad or dessert to share. We will sing Christmas Carols to get into the beloved spirit of our Lord's birth.

